

Mike, devoted husband of Lorna, father to three sons and Granddad to five....and special HONORARY Granddad to many Mepal children, some who now have children of their own!



Mike made and gave away over 200 woodies in his latter years

Appreciations to NHS: Haddenham Surgery, five local hospitals; staff there over the years have always been most helpful; Mike coped with many health problems, always "looking on the bright side".

I would like to thank friends who kindly sent messages, cards and calls; I felt I must share these notes of MY MIKE with all his many friends, far and near.

*Lorna Delanoy
July 2020*



A TRUE FENMAN (MD)

I think that I'm a true Fenman –
For most of the criteria I meet:
With the exception of one that is,
In that I haven't got webbed feet!
In order to come here with Vermuyden,
Great (times eight) Granddad left home.
He and his brother helped Cornelius
Drain the lovely Isle of Axeholme.
I was born at King's Lynn, at the mouth of the Ouse,
And lived there until I was three –
Then moved to Ely for twenty one years:
I couldn't leave the river, you see!
Haddenham next, where the village lies
Just a mile from the River Old West
And now, right close to the Bedford Rivers
In Mepal, the place I like best.
And so the Fens mean so much to me
In Summer, or Winter's flood:
I think the reason's plain to see –
I've got rivers in my blood!

Mike trained in engineering after completing 2 years in the RAF (stationed at Waterbeach in traffic control). In 1960 he was awarded the medal for first place in the UK for City and Guilds exams and for a few years was employed in the Pye Group. In 1966 he chose to become self-employed and over the years worked on a variety of projects..... anemometers in mines; colour TV BBC news broadcasting; stocks for large animals (inc an elephant!) and a variety of technical applications of lasers in industry....as well as mending an old neighbour's gate!

Parallel to work of this nature, he built up his son's "shoe-box collection" to become an important Cambridgeshire Museum, known as The Farmland Museum, located in Haddenham (now at Denny Abbey off the A10)....on one afternoon we had over 1400 visitors as part of the annual Blossoms and Bygones event. It was for his voluntary work that both he and I were awarded an MBE each by HM the Queen in 1999. Other services to the community were; parish councillor; school governor

and chair of HEART, member of the Cambs Curators' Panel, Ely Wildfowlers and Mayfly Fishing Club.

Work which gave him a lot of satisfaction was helping with Special Needs Teenagers at the Milton Farm College; he inspired them with a love of the countryside; a book was produced by sixth-formers from Impington V C entitled 'A Year In The Fens' (as opposed to a year in Provence, a current TV programme!)

On retiring to Mepal in 2002 he investigated the Great Dyke, (a man-made waterway linking the two Bedfords); artefacts from his dig are now in a case in the Village Hall and as recently as last December his findings were published by Cambs Antiquarian Society.

So.....Mike of Mepal had a very busy and happy life, he LOVED the village and its people and was loved by them; at his request the funeral will be private. Donations in his memory if desired to The Farmland Museum or British Heart Foundation.